

REMARKS:

Claims 1-19 are presented for examination, with claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11, 12, 15 and 16 having been amended hereby.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

It is respectfully submitted that applicant does not necessarily concur with the Examiner in the Examiner's analysis of the claims of the present application and the applicable patent laws and regulations.

Nevertheless, in order to expedite prosecution of the application, all of the independent claims have been amended hereby to explicitly relate to a method implemented by a programmed computer system. More particularly, and as suggested by the Examiner, each of these independent claims now recites various steps which may be carried out using such a programmed computer system.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter has been overcome.

Referring now to the Examiner's "Requirement For Information Under 37 CFR 1.105", it is respectfully noted that the information requested is being sought. It is respectfully proposed that the information be submitted to the Examiner in a subsequent communication when the information is available (if required, applicant will pay any appropriate Information Disclosure Statement fee at that time).


Finally, it is noted that this Amendment is fully supported by the originally filed application and thus, no new matter has been added. For this reason, the Amendment should be entered.

More particularly, support for the amendments to claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11, 12, 15 and 16 regarding the recitation of a method implemented by a programmed computer system is found in claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11, 12, 15 and 16, as filed; at page 12, line 20 to page 14, line 26; at page 15, lines 12-18; in Figs. 7 and 8; and throughout the specification.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection raised by the Examiner in the July 8, 2004 Office Action has been overcome and that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,
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